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Montana SOICC News

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(406) 444-2741

Big Sky Career Guide

A recent study involving 5,792 students in Montana produced an interesting result. While 68 percent rated their high school education as "excellent" or "good," 48 percent expressed a need for help in making educational and vocational plans. Montana will soon have a powerful tool to use in helping students make their plans for their educational future.

The Big Sky Career Guide will make its debut in January, 1991. This guide is an 11x14 newspaper with information on careers.

The Big Sky Career Guide will have 24 pages packed with information on over 100 careers. Articles of interest will provide information on educational opportunities, self-assessment, military careers, state agency services, job hunting tips and much more.

This career tabloid will be distributed free of charge to all Montana high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. Each school

will receive a User's Guide for teachers and counselors. The guide presents ideas for using the tabloid.

The tabloid is a joint venture. The Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) and the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) offices have combined their efforts to compile and publish this tabloid. Funding for the project is from the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act, through the Office of Public Instruction.

Although new to Montana, several states have been producing a career tabloid for a number of years. Bob Arnold, SOICC Program Officer, said that many states are publishing a career tabloid on a yearly basis. He said the publication has been very well received by schools around the nation, and should prove to be of great benefit to schools in Montana.

Career information has become more important to high school students and the career tabloid will be an excellent resource. The down-to-earth information in the Big Sky Career Guide will help students become aware of the career prospects available and the type of training necessary to achieve their career goals.

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Software and Publications

The Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee recently completed mailing out new software and users' manuals for the Micro-Occupational Information System and the Training Institution Directory.

If you have either of these systems and did not receive an update package, please call us and let us know. When you call, please let us know what size diskette you will need (3.5" or 5.25").

If you would like either of these software packages, please call the Montana SOICC at 1-800-633-0229.

Supply/Demand Report

The September 1990 edition of the Montana Supply/Demand Report is available from the SOICC. This publication contains supply, demand and analysis data in detail.

Executive Summary

The Montana Supply/Demand Executive Summary, is a new publication from the SOICC. It contains labor market information concepts, graphs associated with job clusters from the Montana Supply/Demand Report, and a brief overview of shortage/surplus situations for each major job cluster.

The Executive Summary was prepared in response to comments received concerning the need for quickly accessible, general information on the supply/demand situation in Montana.

Federal Career Directory

The Federal Career Directory, which provides information about Federal career and employment opportunities, is now available. The directory includes information on civil service careers and benefits, major Federal Departments and agencies and the most common types of occupations found in these agencies. This publication is published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Copies of the Federal Career Directory may be ordered through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325. The directory

costs \$31.00. Specify how many copies you want, and reference the serial number 006-000-01339-2. When you order, be sure to request the free catalog which lists hundreds of Government publications.

New Wave Unemployment

According to the November 26, 1990, U.S. News and World Report, unemployment these days isn't what it used to be. Part of the 7.0% unemployment expected by the end of 1991 will be made up of bankers, commercial real-estate brokers, and over 40,000 Wall Street workers.

Sounds bad until you consider that over 600,000 manufacturing workers have been laid off since 1989, nearly 350,000 construction workers have been "pink-slipped" in the last few months, and four major firms (General Motors, McDonnell Douglas, Campbell Soup, and AT&T) plan to lay off 90,000 employees. Looking beyond the hype and attention given to those losing jobs in the "high rollers" occupations, it becomes apparent that the blue collar workers will bear the brunt of the layoffs.

Coping with this downturn can take many forms. Thousands of women are taking two or more part-time jobs, and many now unemployed professionals and middle level managers are turning to self-employment as the answer. Others are accepting any work they can secure, with drops in salaries ranging up to 75%.

Despite the seemingly overwhelming bad news, there is some good news. More than 7 out of 10 Americans work in the service sector, and this sector is still holding steady at around 5 million jobs. Over the past year 600,000 jobs have been added in the health care field, with another 300,000 having been added as teachers and other education workers are hired to work with the baby-boomers' children crowding into the nation's schoolrooms.

Source: U.S. News & World Report, November 26, 1990

Spring 1991 Improved Career Decision Making Workshops

Mark your calendars for the Spring, 1991 Improved Career Decision Making Workshops. Workshops will be held in Fairmont Hot Springs, Billings, and Kalispell beginning in March, 1991.

These workshops will present training on the availability and use of national and Montana-specific career, occupational, and labor market information. The object of the workshops is to help counselors help their clients to make career decisions that better reflect the realities of the job market.

The workshops are being sponsored by the Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, Montana Career Information System, and the Office of Public Instruction. Dates and locations are as follows:

March 26-28, 1991 - Fairmont Hot Springs

April 9-11, 1991 - Billings

April 23-25, 1991 - Kalispell

Lodging arrangements have been made with the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Billings Plaza Holiday Inn, and Cavanaugh's Inns in Kalispell.

If you're interested and want more information, give us a call at 1-800-633-0229, or fill out and mail the form below.

SPRING 1991 IMPROVED CAREER DECISION MAKING WORKSHOPS

NAME & TITLE _____

AGENCY OR SCHOOL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

PLEASE CHECK WORKSHOP YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING:

- ☐ March 26-28 Butte: Fairmont Hot Springs, 1500 Fairmont Road, Anaconda, MT
- ☐ April 9-11 Billings: Holiday Inn Billings Plaza, 5500 Midland Road, Billings MT
- ☐ April 23-25 Kalispell: Cavanaugh's, North 20 Main Street, Kalispell, MT

MAIL TO: MONTANA SOICC
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ACT Test Survey

Each year, students taking the ACT test are asked in what general areas did they need more help during their high school careers. Here are the results of three of those years.

EXPRESSING NEED FOR HELP IN:	1986	1987	1989
Educational/Occupational Training	50%	52%	48%
Reading Speed/Comprehension	24%	25%	24%
Study Skills	39%	39%	41%
Math Skills	38%	37%	38%
Expressing Ideas in Writing	25%	26%	25%
Personal Concerns	12%	12%	N/A
Source: North Dakota SOICC Newsletter, Fall 1990			

Skills For The New Workplace

The New York State Department of Education has identified ten core skills to infuse into K-12 curriculum. They are:

- Basics
- Keyboarding
- Data manipulation
- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Systems of technology
- Resource management
- Economics of work
- Human relations
- Applied math and science
- Career planning

Source: Kansas Careers Newsletter, April 1990



Helping Parents Help

Parents have a tremendous role in helping their children choose a career. Here are just a few suggestions for parents of high school students:

- Offer to arrange career "shadowing" activities at their workplace.
- Promote the understanding in young people that they will need job skills but also adaptable skills for occupational success.
- Give young adults certain economic obligations, such as saving for education, special trips or items. Perhaps they should be required to use their earnings to fill the gas tank or purchase sports equipment.
- Encourage young adults to obtain and maintain job commitments, paid or unpaid, for at least a few months before leaving high school. Options include summer or after-school jobs, school-sponsored internships, work experience programs, and regularly scheduled volunteer service.
- Encourage them to consult teachers and counselors for additional help in identifying interests and abilities, and to seek guidance in applying this knowledge about themselves to the world of work.

Source: **Kansas Careers Newsletter**, April 1990

Not Just for Boys

Computers are everywhere these days, and everybody is using them. Or are they? According to recent studies, boys are more apt to use computers than girls.

Only a quarter of students who choose to use computers when they aren't required to are girls. In a New Jersey study, almost twice as many of the third and fourth-grade boys as girls reported feeling comfortable with computers. In another survey, three times as many girls as boys stated they didn't use their home computers at all (in homes which had computers). Additionally, boys were more likely to see using home computers for finances, data

processing or games, while girls most often said they would use them in connection with housework.

The U.S. Department of Labor calculates that between 50 and 75 percent of jobs available to the next generation will involve the use of computers. The National Alliance of Business recently surveyed 1,200 top firms. The consensus was that few entry-level workers had been adequately educated for the work force. The result is that companies are interviewing more workers per job than they were five years ago.

The disadvantage faced by women in the workforce becomes very apparent. As more jobs demand technological training and computer literacy, people without computer skills will find themselves handicapped in the job market. The current trend indicates that women will be a disproportionate number of the people who will have to try to play "catch up" as they enter the job market.

Source: **Montana Vocational Education Equity Bulletin**, September 1990

College Statistics

- 31 percent of 1985-1986 bachelor's degree winners worked in jobs not requiring a college degree.
- The Department of Labor is predicting that only 20 percent of the new jobs opening in the next decade will require a college degree.
- College subsidies equal \$45 billion per year. Postsecondary training subsidies equal \$7 billion.
- About 50 percent of high school graduates go to college. 75 percent go to state schools. Six years later only 41 percent of those attending four-year colleges have attained a bachelor's degree. 31 percent of students starting at community colleges attain some type of degree.
- Tuition provides about 23 percent of the college/university operating costs. State and federal sources provide 42 percent. Private sources make up the rest.

Source: **Journal of the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools**, December 1990

The Young and The Restless

The considerable interest that many young people take in their hair doesn't seem to spur many to become barbers, so it is not surprising that one in five barbers are under 35 years old. Younger workers flock to jobs as supermarket baggers, fast-food clerks and door-to-door salespeople, but they don't stay long.

Jobs in which workers stay the shortest:

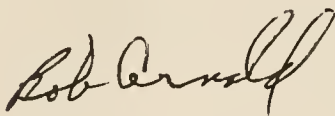
	Median Tenure (in years)	Median Age
Fast-food counterperson	1.5	18.8
Supermarket stockperson and bagger	1.9	21.1
Kitchen worker	2.1	27.2
Messenger	2.3	30.3
News vendor	2.3	26.4
Mailroom clerk	2.3	29.8
Cashier	2.4	24.4
File clerk	2.5	28.5
Service station attendant	2.6	23.8
Shoe salesperson	2.6	22.3
Hotel clerk	2.7	27.7
Nanny	2.7	21.9
Door-to-door salesperson	2.7	35.8
Video-arcade attendant	2.8	26.9
Salesclerk	3.1	29.7
Library clerk	3.3	28.9
Receptionist	3.3	31.4
Security guard	3.3	38.6
Dispatcher	3.3	34.0
Baker	3.4	33.1
Reservation agent	3.5	33.5

Jobs in which workers stay the longest:

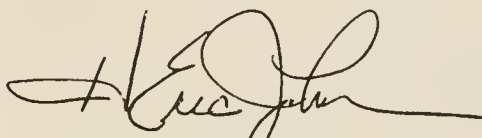
	Median Tenure (in years)	Median Age
Barber	24.8	49.5
Farmer	21.1	50.1
Railroad conductor	18.4	44.3
Cleric	15.8	44.8
Dentist	15.7	43.2
Telephone line installer and repairer	15.0	36.6
Airplane pilot	14.0	41.6
Tailor	13.3	44.2
Civil engineer	13.0	38.8
Crane operator	12.9	41.6
Secondary school teacher	12.5	39.8
Elementary school teacher	12.4	39.0
Dental lab technician	12.3	35.0
Tool and diemaker	12.0	39.8
Machinist	11.9	36.9
Pharmacist	11.8	38.1
Electrician	11.0	36.1
Physician	10.7	40.3
Plumber	10.4	35.6
Practical nurse	10.3	36.9
Lawyer	10.1	37.6

Source: U.S. News and World Report, January 23, 1989

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



BOB ARNOLD
PROGRAM OFFICER



H. ERIC JOHNSON
DATA BASE TECHNICIAN

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

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